

KENTUCKY LABOR CABINET

DEPARTMENT OF WORKPLACE STANDARDS

Information Bulletin regarding H1N1 Influenza Virus



August 2009

In light of questions and concerns voiced by employers and employees about the H1N1 influenza virus (swine flu), the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Program reiterates and highlights the following information.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the use of several hygienic practices to reduce the potential of contracting the virus which include:

- Frequent hand washing;
- Covering your mouth when coughing;
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; and
- Individuals should stay home if sick.

You may find more information specifically about the H1N1 virus from the CDC, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu;>

<http://healthalerts.ky.gov/swineflu>; and

<http://kyem.ky.gov/NR/exeres/F8960660-60DE-40C5-A8DA-A5E5B3C7C90C.htm>.

The CDC recommends N95 respirators for health care workers to protect against H1N1. The Kentucky OSH Program reminds employers the Respiratory Protection requirements found at 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) [1910.134](#), adopted by 803 Kentucky Administrative Regulation 2:308, are applicable. It is important to note that 29 CFR 1910.134 differentiates between voluntary and required respirator use and has requirements addressing both. Additionally, the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) and the Kentucky OSH Program differentiate between a surgical mask and a respirator.

For more OSH information addressing pandemic influenza workplace practices, surgical masks, and respirators, please refer to:

[Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic](#); and

[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employer](#).

Please contact the Division of Education and Training or an OSH Standards Specialist at (502) 564-3070 with any questions.